REMARKS:

This communication is in response to the detailed office action dated October 21, 2004, wherein the Examiner objected to the drawings, objected to all pending claims, and rejected claims 1-6 and 10. The Examiner stated that claims 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner further stated that claims 11-12 would be allowable if amended to overcome the objections set forth in this office action.

First, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a) as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claim 2 is currently amended to remove the positive recitation of the vehicle body. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the objection to the drawings are now moot.

Second, the Examiner objected to all pending claims, citing informalities in independent claims 1 and 11. Claims 1 and 11 are currently amended according to the recommendations proposed by the Examiner. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 11 and its dependent claim 12 are now in allowable form. Claims 1-10 are further discussed below.

Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson (U.S. Patent No. 967,285), and claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applegarth (U.S. Patent No. 2,148,891). The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Patzer et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2003/0166432), and claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Fannin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,757,884) and Applegarth in view of Fannin et al.

The Examiner stated that claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Base claim 1 is currently amended to include the subject matter of claim 7, claim 7 is cancelled, and claims 8-9, formerly dependent on claim 7, are currently amended to depend from claim 1. By incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 7, the Applicant believes that currently amended base claim 1 and its dependent claims are now in allowable form.

The Applicant believes that the claims are in a condition for allowance and accordingly seeks allowance of this matter. Should the Examiner have any continuing objections or concerns, the Examiner is respectfully asked to contact the undersigned at 415-442-1106 in order to expedite allowance of this case. Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060945-0130).

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 22, 2005

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